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The Youth Advocate

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

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BIRCHWOOD CAMPUS DEDICATED



"I'LL BE YOUR BUDDY. . ."

. . . Says Mallory Carson, left, as the Artful Dodger to Mark Prevatt, as Oliver, in an adaptation of the musical, "Oliver," performed by students in the Birchwood Chapel in early May. The production was put on by the agency's drama department.

The S. C. Department of Youth Services dedicated its \$5 million "New Campus" March 9, and during the ceremony, renamed it the Birchwood Campus.

A former student, Bobby Bridgeman, who is athletic director and head football coach at West Florence Senior High School, was guest speaker. Bridgeman was a student at the S. C. School for Boys in Florence in 1950.

The rationale for the new name, delivered by board member and former chairman Mrs. Barbara T. Sylvester of Florence, stressed the beauty and the strength of the birchwood tree.

"Our physical plant and program here at Birchwood Campus is truly beautiful, and certainly children are," said Mrs. Sylvester. "There is great strength in the Birchwood tree and strength is one of the most needed ingredients in holding the 'magnificent obsession' together."

The program also included remarks by Lt. Gov. Brantley Harvey, board chairman Mrs. Lucy T. Davis of Florence and State Director Grady A. Decell.

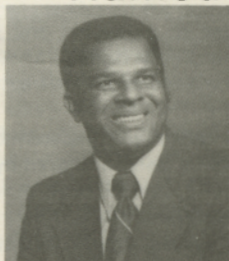
The dedication capped several years' work in planning and construction. The 10 buildings house the agency's Intensive Care Unit program and the high school and vocational education programs, a multiple use gymnasium and the agency's first chapel/auditorium.

The S. C. School for Boys was closed last September and all students were transferred to Columbia. The campus serves as part of a treatment complex that includes the Willow Lane School and the John G. Richards School, formerly the Reception and Evaluation Center.

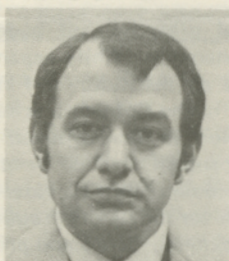
Members of the General Assembly were invited to a luncheon, the ceremony and a tour of facilities.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Sylvester's remarks appear on page 6.)

Kenner, Pendarvis Named To Board



Kenner



Pendarvis

COLUMBIA — A Charleston real estate developer and a Columbia businessman have been appointed to the board of the S. C. Department of Youth Services, replacing one member who resigned and another whose term expired.

Appointed by Governor James B. Edwards were Edward T. Pendarvis of Charleston and Rairford Kenner of Columbia. Pendarvis replaces John F. Henry

of North Charleston, board chairman who resigned last fall. Kenner succeeds E. Perry Palmer of Columbia, who was 1975-76 board chairman.

Pendarvis is president of Ventura Villas, Inc., a Mt. Pleasant real estate development; and head of Pendarvis Construction Company and American Real Estate Exchange, both of Charleston.

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Status Offenders Removed

COLUMBIA — More than half the children who were classified or classed as status offenders last year have been removed from the S. C. Department of Youth Services' Institutional Division and placed in the agency's Youth Bureau programs.

Statistics from the department's Data Processing Division reveal there were 157 status offenders in the institutions as of January, 1976. By this January, 1977, the number had been reduced to 63.

The agency received a \$1.5 million federal grant in November, 1975 to remove all status offenders from institutions. Status offenders are those children who have committed crimes which would not be classified as such if they were adults. Examples are, a runaway, incorrigible (beyond the control of one's parents) and truancy.

The total number of status offenders in institutions last year — 178, which included 21 at the Reception and Evaluation Center — was reduced to 79 this January.

"We have opened Youth Bureau services in 37 of the counties throughout South Carolina in the last 15 months," says Director Grady A. Decell. "Such coverage, when completed, will lessen the number of status offenders coming even to the R&E Center, because the children will have alternatives in the community."

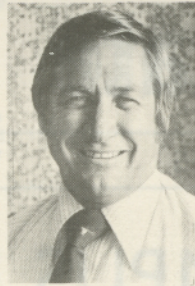
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Director's

Dialogue. . .

by

Grady A. Decell



There has been much information in the news media recently on the position of this agency regarding intake and probation, and whether we should be involved with this function.

Indeed, there has been some question whether the Director of this agency should be involved in the affairs of any other state agency, particularly that of Juvenile Placement and Aftercare. As you may know, the Director of the S. C. Department of Youth Services is a member of the board of the Department of Juvenile Placement and Aftercare. However, the Director of JP&A is not a member of our board. There is a specific reason for this.

The custody of children who are on conditional release — a decision made by JP&A — remain with the Department of Youth Services. No other agency assumes control of this function. Therefore it seems logical that the agency which controls the custody of the child should be involved with that child until his probation ends. Otherwise you'd have a perfect example of the tail wagging the dog.

HISTORY OF AGENCIES

JP&A and the Department of Youth Services were both established by Act 386 of the General Assembly of 1969. JP&A's authority is to determine when a child may be conditionally or unconditionally released from an institution and supervising those children on conditional release.

Since the passage of the Family Court Act in 1968, 27 counties have adopted legislation to provide full family court services to the children in their jurisdiction. Some seven additional counties, although not adopting the Family Court Act, have limited staff to work with children. Some 12 counties don't have court personnel to deal with children and there aren't any court personnel available to provide services to these children.

During the fiscal year 1975-76, the Department had a budget of more than \$8.3 million and had about 750 staff members. JP&A had a budget of \$435,000 with a total employment of 34 persons.

INTAKE AND PROBATION

Beginning July 1, all counties in South Carolina will be served by Family Courts. The counties shall provide intake and probation services until July 1, 1978, at which time the Department shall provide such services.

We immediately recognized two possible threats to a uniform system. (1) What would happen if a county failed or was unable to provide intake and probation services for the interim year? (2) What assurances would there be the services they'd provide would be uniform?

As we believe that uniformity insures quality, we presented a proposal to the Rules Committee of the Family Courts and to the Court Administrative Office to provide intake and probation services in those counties presently with staff prior to July 1, 1978, and to train those individuals already employed in the system. Chief Justice Woodrow Lewis heartily concurred with our view.

A SOUND AND PRACTICAL PROCEDURE

This challenge is well worth undertaking, and is a sound and practical procedure. Even as early as 1970 the White House Conference suggested the nation should have rational statewide programs that direct staffs towards child advocacy. We believe this agency is the logical one to perform this function in South Carolina.

News Briefs

NEAL NAMED VICE PRESIDENT

J. P. Neal Jr., Deputy Director for Professional Services, has been elected vice president of the board of directors of the S. C. State Employees' Association.

Neal, active in SCSEA affairs for years (and a member of its board of directors), was director of public relations for Benedict College, an assistant principal and teacher at W. A. Perry High School.

COURT WORKERS

The second annual meeting of state juvenile court workers and the Department of Youth Services' staff was held May 6 at the Birchwood Campus.

Some 100 judges, probation counselors, intake officers and court administrators attended. A panel discussion between staff and the court administrators attended. A panel discussion between staff and the court workers was held in the morning. The agency's four campuses were toured in the afternoon.

Mrs. Betty Gurnell, DYS Training Coordinator, was in charge of the program.

* * *

ALLIED FUND CAMPAIGN

The S. C. Department of Youth Services became the first state agency in history to conduct a combined spring campaign for allied health agencies.

The campaign pulled together a dozen major health agencies who normally conduct their fund drives from February through April. Public Information/Education Coordinator Edward B. Borden said the single campaign "eliminated overlap and provided for a more effectively run internal fund drive."

Operated during April, the drive netted health agencies more than \$650, Borden said.

* * *

OLIVER

An adaptation of the Broadway musical, "Oliver," was held at the Birchwood Chapel May 6-8. "The play was updated from London to Columbia," said Director of Drama Shelley Kalinoski.

Members of the cast are Laura Fetner as Nancy, Mark Prevatt as Oliver, Mallory Carson as the Artful Dodger, Chip Medlin as Fagin and Randy Norman as Sikes. Jan Howell was the pianist.

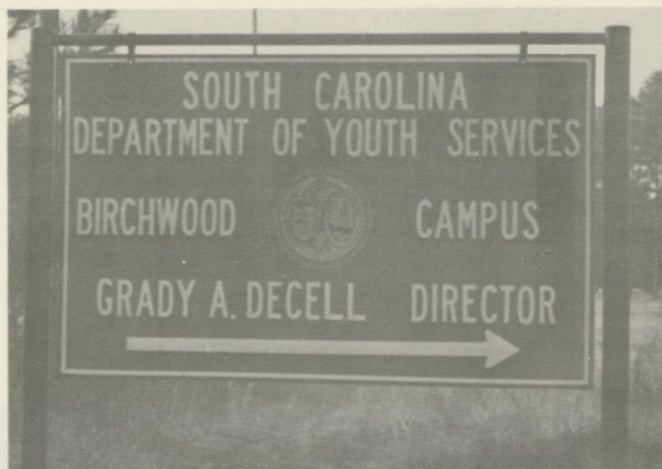
With careful planning and budgeting we've expanded and contracted simultaneously. While expanding our Youth Bureau services we have closed an institution in Florence to consolidate all institutional facilities in the Columbia area.

Our expansion in the community has not been "expansion for the sake of expansion" but on need factors as demonstrated by the children in the community. By November 1977, all counties in South Carolina will be served by our Youth Bureau Division.

In order to provide intake and probation services to an estimated population of some 512,000 children between 7 and 16, it'll take more than speeches. We look forward to such provisions of service with great excitement.

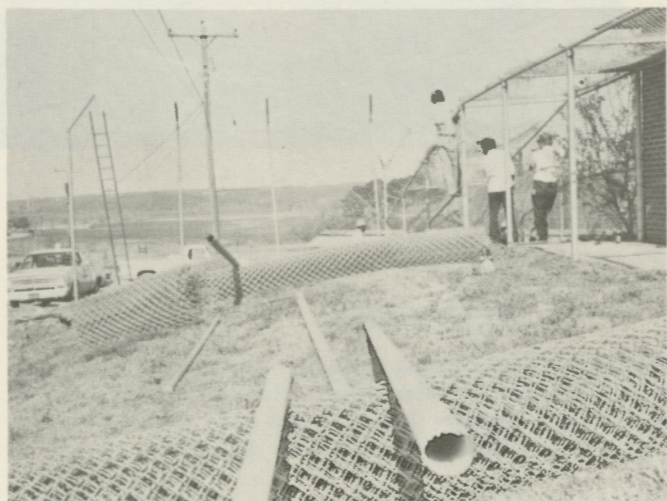
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Mrs. Lucy T. Davis Chairman
Grady A. Decell Director
Edward B. Borden Editor



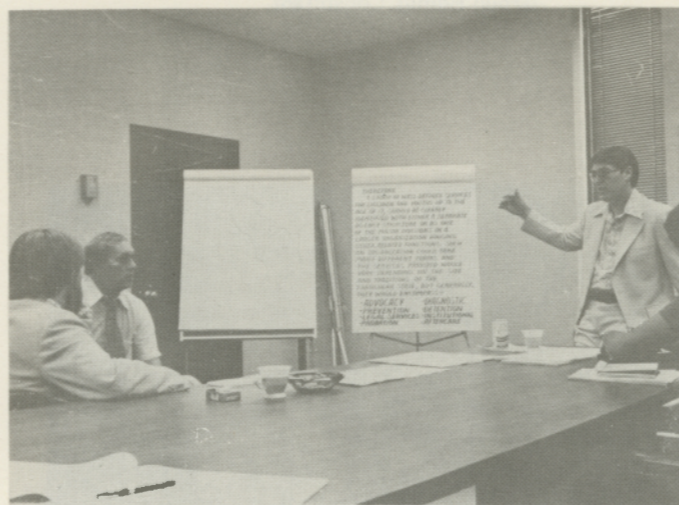
THE DREAM COMES TRUE

The S. C. Department of Youth Services dedicated Birchwood Campus March 9, as the new sign at Broad River Road proudly attests. State Director Grady A. Decell, second from left, chats with the honored guests, William "Bill" Cooper, retired principal at the S. C. School for Boys in Florence; Bobby Bridgeman, athletic director at West Florence High School; and Lt. Gov. Brantley Harvey.



THE FENCE COMES DOWN

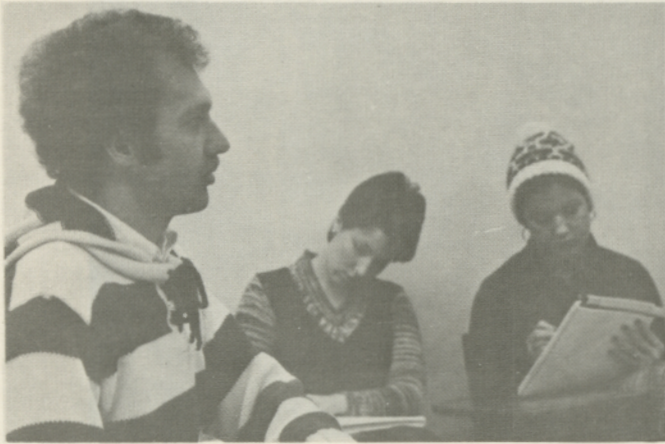
True to its word, the agency has begun remodeling Pickens Building, the former maximum security facility on the Reception and Evaluation Center campus. The building will be used as a dormitory for girls, with semi-private rooms. The first phase of the program was the removal of the chain link fence.



INTAKE EXPLAINED

Jim Lewis, second from right, Project Developer, discussed the agency's proposed intake and probation procedures at a news conference in the board room of the William J. Goldsmith building. Participants included Columbia Record reporter Robert Hitt, DYS Administrative Assistant Roland Bollacker and WIS Radio Reporter Audreyole McCants.

The Youth Advocate Scene

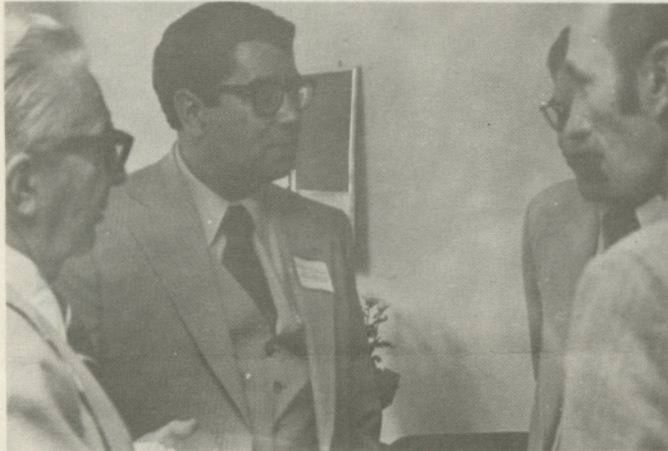


TALKS TO STUDENTS

Birchwood Campus Therapist Training Specialist Stanley Conine discusses procedures in the Intensive Care Unit program with students at Columbia College. The agency conducts a continuing program of community education on delinquency, the agency's role in delinquency prevention and rehabilitation of offenders.

THE JUDGE SPEAKS

Richland County Family Court Judge J. McNary Spigner chats with new members of the Youth Bureau. Listening are Nancy Reynolds, Lexington County Family Court and William Stanton, Youth Bureau Group Homes Consultant.



OPEN HOUSE

The Aiken Youth Bureau recently held an open house in its Newberry Street offices. Here Regional Supervisor Len Thomas (second from left) chats with Aiken Mayor Odell Weeks and other dignitaries.

BASKETBALL TEAM

The agency all-star basketball team, composed of the best members from each campus, includes, front row, Gladden and Nathaniel Bigsby; and back row, Chauncey Grayson, Leroy Golden, Andre Williams, Mike Sloan, Lynn Pressly and Aaron Coe.



"Pride In Me," Says Former Student

FLORENCE — Bobby Bridgeman settled into the chair in the athletic office at Florence High School, and reflected on his success.

"If I have any," said the popular 43-year-old athletic director and head football coach, "it's because I was fortunate to have as my friend a man who was interested in kids. Genuinely interested in them."

Bridgeman's friend is William "Bill" Cooper, retired principal of the academic school at the S. C. School for Boys in Florence. Bridgeman was a student at the school, part of the S. C. Department of Youth Services, for six years.

Bridgeman was the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony of the \$5 million Birchwood Campus, now located on Broad River Road in Columbia. Bridgeman paid tribute to Cooper.

"I was a status offender," says Bridgeman. "I hadn't come from a particularly bad environment, but I'd developed an attitude that had made me take on the whole world."

The time was 1950. After the evaluation period, Bridgeman remembers, Cooper casually asked him one day, "Boy, what's your name?" Bridgeman told him. "Are you ready to be assigned to a cottage?" he asked with a wink.

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A native of Allendale, Pendarvis was president of his class and captain of the football team in high school. He was also president of his class at The Citadel, where he graduated in 1965 with a B.S. in Business Administration.

Pendarvis has been director of the American Legion Palmetto Boys State program for 16 years. He is a member of the Advisory Board for the Salvation Army and serves as S. C. Department Convention chairman for the American Legion.

He served two years active duty in the Artillery, was awarded the Army commendation medal for meritorious service in Korea, and holds the

Bridgeman nodded. "Then report in to 'A' Company."

"That was a heck of a moment," Bridgeman recalls. "Normally the sergeant — another student — escorts you over. He let me go by myself. And I kept thinking all the way over, 'He trusts me.'"

"After I was there for a year, he said he wanted me to come work for him. I jumped at the chance. I never knew a kid who didn't like him. Mr. Cooper was strict, but fair."

Through Cooper's help Bridgeman enrolled in McClenaghan High School, the first boy from a school for juvenile offenders to do so. "I was pretty well back on academics then, and we decided it was the best thing for me to do."

Bridgeman subsequently received a football scholarship to Furman University, spent an enlistment in the Army paratroopers, and received a BA degree in Education in 1959. He was physical education director at Seneca, superintendent of recreation for the City of Anderson and athletic director at Lake City High School and McClenaghan. He's been at Florence High School for seven years.

"There's a pride in me that I did go there," says Bridgeman. "I spent years there because I loved it. There's pride in me because I made it the hard way."

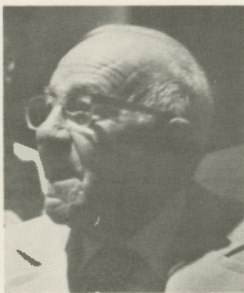
Army Reserve rank of Captain.

Kenner, a native of Ridge Spring, is president of Rayford School Supply Company. He is a graduate of Bettison Academy and the Pratt Institute.

Kenner was layout draftsman at the Savannah River Project and served as terminal manager and traffic director with G. S. Garvey Motor Lines.

Kenner currently serves as a consultant to the Department of Education in the handicapped program.

Kenner ran as a Republican for the Richland County Council. He is married to the former Geraldine Jenkins of Holly Hill and Daytona Beach, Fla. They have three children.



RETIRED PRINCIPAL HONORED

Special tribute to William "Bill" Cooper, retired principal at the S. C. School for Boys in Florence, was paid by Bobby Bridgeman, main speaker at the March 9 dedication of the Birchwood Campus.

It makes me understand kids and the problems that are facing them."

It's people that change other people, says Bridgeman, which is the primary reason why he's helping other boys and girls today. "The big things I see missing from kids today is loyalty, courage, honor, discipline." You've got to have people who realize that. Mr. Cooper put me in a trust situation and it changed me and my character."

As part of the high school's athletic program, Bridgeman teaches students to do a back

flip on the trampoline. "That's something, when you're way up there and you've got your back to the floor. I've seen kids tremble with anxiety before they do it, and then burst with enthusiasm when done. It teaches them courage; something inside themselves that they may not have thought they had."

When Bridgeman took the podium March 9 to talk to others he talked to himself as well.

"Everything I know," he says simply, "is a flashback from what Bill Cooper was."

Continued from page 1

Much of the success of the deinstitutionalization project, says George B. Grogan, Deputy Director for Youth Bureau Division, "has been due to the excellent cooperation between the Family Court judges, public and private agencies and law enforcement officials."

Statewide, more than 2,000 status offenders were offered help or services last year. The Youth Bureau Division saw by far the largest amount — 1,948 children. The largest offense was incorrigibility (1,281), followed by truancy (386) and being a runaway (224).

The predominate age for institutionalized status offenders was 16. The largest number of children in the Youth Bureau were 15 years of age, with 16 and 14 being the largest age groups.

More than half (59) of the students in the institutions and the Youth Bureau (1,395) were white. There was a slightly higher percentage of males than females.

The majority of referrals for status offenders last year came from metropolitan areas. Spartanburg led the way with 332. Others with high referrals included Charleston (310); Anderson (222); Greenville (204); Richland (176); and York (136).

Plans are underway, says Decell, to remove all status offenders from institutions before the end of the grant period.

Additionally, services in the communities continue to expand. Thirty-seven of the state's 46 counties now have Youth Bureau programs, compared to eight in November, 1975. The state's sixth Regional Youth Bureau — Aiken — was recently opened, joining Charleston, Greenville, Spartanburg, Rock Hill and Columbia, which were open long before the grant began.

Grogan said reduction of status offenders from jails has also been attained through cooperative efforts with the Alston Wilkes Society, a private prisoner aid organization and other agencies.

Profile:

Lucy T. Davis Board Chairman



EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Lucy T. Davis, the agency's newest board chairman, is principal of West Florence High School. She has been a teacher, counselor and principal in elementary, junior and senior high schools. She was recently cited by the S. C. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development for "outstanding contributions in curriculum development." **PROFILE** was interested in the observations between her civilian job and her post as chairman:

Q: What challenges do you see for the coming year?

A: The first priority is to do whatever it takes to screen carefully in release or transfer of students to relieve the overcrowded conditions. My second goal is to assure that both students and staff continue to develop and intensify interpersonal relationships so that proper behavioral changes can occur. A third effort will be to work on job satisfaction for the staff.

Q: Will you clarify your first priority, please?

A: There is a strong possibility that a number of children who are eligible for release are overlooked and can profit more from the Youthful Offender Division of the adult correctional system. I'd like to see many of our 17-year-olds and older in situations where they can obtain counseling and training for job opportunities, more so than in our agency, where education is geared towards prevocational training.

Q: How can we do this?

A: A lot of paper work is fine, but if it's not used, it's not worth anything. I'd suggest a more intense look at evaluations of students and with more follow-up.

Q: What about intensifying interpersonal relationships?

A: This would help the overcrowding because the counselor and the treatment team would have more time for attention with each child. Continuing evaluation of programs should go on, as this gives us a means of deleting which parts of programs are good and which should be eliminated.

Q: Anything else?

A: I want children and staff to continue talking. I want the staff to reach out and hug those children. I want them to feel loved. I want them to be loved. This openness will encourage children to unburden their problems so that effective communication can begin and rehabilitation will naturally follow.

Q: What about staff?

A: Each person makes an important contribution. I'm going to see that as many staff members as possible, showing them that I care about them as individuals, and as professional people. I will not, of course, usurp established lines of communication or procedures. But I want everyone to know that no matter how difficult the road, or how far we have to go, I am behind everyone one hundred percent, as is the rest of the board and the director.

Q: How do you help a child to change his behavior?

A: Treatment is tied into acceptance. You can't push him. You guide him to where he wants to go. You point out alternatives and let him make decisions. These children aren't fooled. They know what's in your heart. Most of these children will have something to say if you listen to them. Availability is the key. If he has to start all over again, let him know you'll be there to help him.

Birchwood Campus Dedication

by

Mrs. Barbara T. Sylvester

There are special occasions in every person's existence when he/she clearly wishes that he could call forth some heretofore untapped resource to assist with an important task — this presentation is one of those occasions for me.

I, too, am delighted you took time from your busy schedule to share this extraordinary afternoon with us.

Along with many, I and the members of our board, have had the privilege of working along with parents, volunteers (of which I'm one), professionals and yes! juvenile delinquents in pursuit of a "magnificent obsession". This obsession centers around the conviction and dream that:

- (1) Much juvenile delinquency can and will be prevented with greater participation.
- (2) Where it cannot — and — as the last resort, commitment becomes necessary that we recognize institutions should provide every citizen with the opportunity, resource, assistance, and encouragement to develop to the maximum of his abilities — to find him or her self.

The Board of the Department of Youth Services and the Department itself is very conscious of their responsibility and are totally committed to the aforementioned — we have been dynamic in our thinking — and above all — in our actions — in behalf of the children in our care. There is no question in my mind that South Carolina has the most outstanding Juvenile Corrections and Preventive Delinquency Program in the Country. We have come a long way and a long way to go we still have. All of us have responded and adjusted to changes on all levels.

Seven years ago I saw a commitment to a new beginning developing in Youth Services. I've seen new trust develop between each of us and I have seen South Carolina and its people recognize their most important resource — *CHILDREN*. This recognition has been demonstrated in every section of the State and from every facet of life.

Society volunteering and legislators appropriating operational and capital improvement funds.

All these things are an integral part of building and establishing a "magnificent obsession". I believe you will find Birchwood Campus to be a part of the "magnificent obsession" that I and many others were in pursuit of — in the pursuit of seeing it (the magnificent obsession) become reality — there has been just cause for optimism — pessimism and anticipation. It is during these periods that the vital lesson of teamwork is so clearly instilled.

With a feeling of adventure and security and great pride I share with you our rationale for the name of this campus.

We have selected a tree — a strong multi-stem tree — a beautiful one that has dignity.

Why?

Our physical plant and program here at Birchwood Campus is truly beautiful — and certainly children are.

Multi means many and we believe that many children and adults will discover the real and true meaning of love and acceptance before leaving. Many will learn that you and I care about them as a person.

Strength — There is great strength in the Birchwood Tree and strength is one of the most needed ingredients in holding the "magnificent obsession" together.

It is one-half mile from here to the highway. The road you travel is lined with Birch trees. As you watch the trees grow — remember they are representative of growth in the Department of Youth Services whose responsibility is caring for children.

Twenty-three months and seventeen days after groundbreaking and at 3:30 p.m. on 9 March 1977, Birchwood Campus is officially the name of this campus.